

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 311160
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VLC:F Z BROWN:EH
APPROVED BY EA:R OAKLEY
EA/TIMBS:R FRITTS
S/S-O:SRPVALERGA

-----051598 312108Z /66

P 311737Z DEC 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 311160

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PDIP, US, VN, TH, EAID

SUBJECT: U.S. AND THAI RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM

REFS: (A) BANGKOK 36178; (B) STATE 304802

1. DEPARTMENT AGREES THAT EMBASSY SHOULD GIVE OWART FULLER APPRECIATION OF VIETNAMESE ATTITUDE TOWARD AID AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS AS PERCEIVED IN U.S.-SRV THIRD ROUND PARIS MEETING. FOLLOWING ARE TALKING POINTS YOU MAY USE IN ELABORATION OF REF B:

-- COMPARED WITH MAY AND JUNE MEETINGS, VIETNAMESE POSITION ON SUPPOSED U.S. AID OBLIGATION WAS MUTED AND, IN OUR VIEW, INDICATED DELIBERATE SRV DECISION TO FOREGO HABITUAL POLEMICS IN FAVOR OF MORE PRAGMATIC APPROACH. THIS MODIFICATION WAS SIGNALLED IN HOLBROOKE'S OCTOBER 3 CONVERSATION WITH VICE FONMIN NGUYEN CO THACH AT UNGA AND WAS BASIS ON
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 311160

WHICH WE DECIDED THAT THIRD ROUND MIGHT BE USEFUL.

-- PHAN HIEN MADE RITUAL REFERENCE TO SRV THREE-POINT OVERALL SOLUTION ADVANCED IN MAY/JUNE MEETINGS, OFFERED TO REPEAT IT, THEN MOVED ON TO DISCUSSION OF OTHER ASPECTS OF AID, E.G. US POSITION IN IFI'S (LONG AND YOUNG LETTERS) AND "EVIDENCE" OF AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION IN FAVOR OF FOOD AID

TO VIETNAM (NEW YORK TIMES POLL).

-- VIETNAMESE INTEREST IN GETTING TRADE EMBARGO LIFTED EMERGED STRONGLY DURING PLENARY AND INFORMAL TEA BREAK CONVERSATIONS. HIEN MADE PLAIN SRV IS MORE INTERESTED IN SUBSTANCE THAN FORM OF RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S., THOUGH LATTER IS TROUBLESOME AND STILL REQUIRES SATISFACTORY SOLUTION.

-- MODIFIED SRV POSITION DOES NOT MEAN VIETNAMESE HAVE DROPPED VIEW THAT U.S. OWES THEM AID, BY WHATEVER NAME IT IS CALLED. THEY SEEM, HOWEVER, TO HAVE REALIZED FAC? OF LIFE THAT AID COMMITMENT PRIOR TO RELATIONS IS OUT OF THE QUESTION AND THAT IT IS WISER, GIVEN THEIR CURRENT SORRY ECONOMIC CONDITION, TO PLAY FOR BENEFITS WHICH LIFTING OF EMBARGO, TRADE WITH U.S., AND ACCESS TO US TECHNOLOGY (PARTICULARLY OFFSHORE OIL) WOULD BRING THEM.

-- WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT VIETNAMESE WILL REVIVE AID DEMAND IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER. THEIR FRIENDS HERE ARE ALREADY AGITATING FOR HUMANITARIAN FOOD AID UNDER DISASTER RUBRIC (SEE EA/VLC STATUS REPORT NO. 4).

-- WE CONCLUDE THAT VIETNAMESE ARE SHOWING INCREASED FLEXIBILITY IN PURSUING GOAL OF MAXIMUM ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 311160

OTHER COUNTRIES. IN NEGOTIATING WITH U.S., "WAR REPARATIONS" WAS PREDICTABLE OPENING GAMBIT. THE SAME WOULD SEEM TO BE TRUE TO SOMEWHAT LESSER DEGREE FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THAILAND. WE THEREFORE AGREE WITH SENSE OF OWART'S ANALYSIS, AND BELIEVE LINKAGE IS IN KEEPING WITH VIETNAMESE NEGOTIATING PATTERN. MORE ACCURATE DESCRIPTION MIGHT BE TACTICAL SHIFT RATHER THAN "SOFTENING" OF VIETNAMESE POSITION.

-- NEGOTIATIONS WITH U.S. AND THAILAND MIGHT BEST BE SEEN AGAINST BACKDROP OF RECENT BURGEONING VIETNAMESE DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA IN QUEST OF TRADE AND ECONOMIC TIES WITH COUNTRIES WHICH, THOUGH NOT FORMER FOES, HAVE BEEN DEEPLY SUSPICIOUS OF UNIFIED COMMUNIST VIETNAM. CLEARLY, VIETNAMESE RECOGNIZE BENEFITS OF DIVERSIFIED ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS AND ARE ADDRESSING PROBLEM IN TYPICALLY PRAGMATIC FASHION.

2. DEPARTMENT CONCURS IN EMBASSY'S FORMULATION ON FORMER U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT (PARA 6, REF A).

3. IF MORE PRECISE QUESTIONS ON U.S.-SRV RELATIONS EMERGE FROM YOUR NEXT MEETING WITH OWART, WE WILL ATTEMPT PROVIDE

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE. CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSURANCE, FOREIGN RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE311160
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: F Z BROWN:EH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780004-0841
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977121/aaaaaafc.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6ddd20fb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 BANGKOK 36178, 77 STATE 304802
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 100409
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. AND THAI RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM
TAGS: OTRA, EINV, NU, US, OPIC, E C ERNST INTL CORP
To: BANGKOK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6ddd20fb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009